



Chris Danou's Capitol Report

September is National Preparedness Month

As we reflect on the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the world trade center in New York, I wanted to take the time to recognize the month of September as "National Preparedness Month." National Preparedness Month is a time set aside by the federal government to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities.

There are three things people should do to be prepared in case of an emergency:

1.) Build an emergency preparedness kit:

Keep supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate. Some of the supplies that should be included are:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home).
- Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multipurpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information

2.) Make a plan as to what your family will do in the event of an emergency.

Meet with your family or household members and discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team. If a family member is in the military, plan how you would respond if they were deployed. It is also important to plan what your family would do if you are separated during an emergency or if you have to evacuate the area near your home.

- 3.) Be informed about what resources are available in your community and what types of disasters could occur there.

For more information disaster preparedness in Wisconsin, visit the following web-sites for more information:

<http://www.wi-redcross.org/>

<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/>

Your emergency plan should be a joint effort, including the members of your household. Make sure each person knows how to reach household members, including an out-of-area emergency contact person. Your family members should also know where to meet if they can't go home. Being informed is important and being prepared in the face of a disaster can save lives.

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